

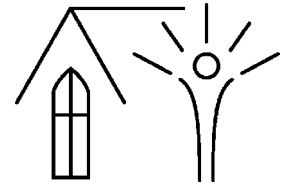


**ROSELLE**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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*Our Mission Statement:*

*“To Know Christ,  
To Grow in Christ,  
To Show Others Christ”*



**June 4, 2006**

**Sermon: “Are You Re-Tired?”**

**Acts 2:1-4, 15-21, John 15:26-27, 16:13-15**

Reverend Thomas Kim

Kay took one look at her friend’s exhausted expression and cluttered office and said, “What you need is a vacation!”

Her overworked friend asked jokingly “Vacation? What’s that?”

“A vacation,” Kay explained, “is what you take if you can no longer take what you’ve been taking.”

Deadlines rule our lives. We rush ahead, looking at calendars and schedules, hardly daring to breathe lest we miss our deadline. Finally, when we can no longer take what we’ve been taking, we stop for rest.

In Africa, when people go on a long hike they stop often to rest. “We must stop,” they say, “and let our souls catch up.”

I name it, “Re-Tiring!” If you ever watched the Indy 500, you know what I mean. After about 35 laps, every race car comes out of the race track, and the supporting crews lubricate the car, change engine oil, and pump gas, and do you know what? They do re-tire! Do you get it? They take its four tires out, and mount new tires, that is, they re-tire the car!

If you have been retired, think about the meaning of your retirement differently. “RE-TIRE-MENT.” Retirement does not mean fading away. You are RE-TIRING your life vehicle with new tires for the next chapter of your life.

Re-Tire-Ment happens not only in our daily life but also in our spiritual life.

Jesus says, “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28) I understand this as a promise that Jesus gave us of retirement Jesus will give us rest when we are tired and weary, and when we are carrying heavy burdens. He will refresh us and recharge us.

Remember the disciples after the Ascension of the Lord. They might have been like sheep without a shepherd, they were afraid of the Jews, they did not know what to do, and they were exhausted and tired. Then the moment came.

On the day of Pentecost, which means “The Fiftieth day after the Passover,” they were all together at Mark’s upper room. Suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2: 1-4)

Did you know that they were “Re-Tired” with the Holy Spirit? Since then, their lives drastically changed. They spoke in different languages, and they courageously preached about Jesus’ death and resurrection. They had been cowardly, but they became bold and courageous. When we receive the Holy Spirit we become different as well. Do you know why? Because we are of spirit.

Genesis 2: 7 says, “The Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.” The breath of life was pnuma, which means spirit.

Let’s just scare ourselves a minute. What if God had not given His own Spirit to us? The human would be like an animal. Can you imagine people living like animals, because they had not received the Spirit of God? How do animals live? They just eat, drink, eliminate, sleep, and die.

But God made a human being out of clay, held it up as a mother holds a baby, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and it became a human being with spirit. We are not only a physical being, but also a spiritual being.

And then God said, “This one is like Me. I am proud of the cow. I love the deer. The mule is so nice, and I do like the turkey. But the one that is exactly like Me is this one. I took the breath of My own life into this one.”

That’s why we human beings are not content with just eating, drinking, working, and sleeping. If they are real human beings, they long for God, they search the meanings of life, and think the things of God.

I cannot precisely explain the Spirit of God. I cannot describe the Holy Spirit. Jesus Himself said it is like a mystery. It is like the wind. You do not see the wind. And yet you know when it comes and when it goes.

In John 3:8 Jesus says, “The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

There was a tree, which was standing tall and proud in the backyard of the parsonage. It did not need anybody or anything. Several weeks ago, I came back home late after church, and my children were waiting for me to tell that the tree was bent over and the top of it was not only touching the ground, but pressed against an apple tree, and was uprooted.

I asked, “What caused that tree to bend so?” One of my children said, “Dad, don’t know it was the wind?”

I saw a proud man, joking about church and saying he did not need anybody. But one day he was in church. Since he started coming, he never missed a Sunday.

What got into him? What caused that? Someone said, “The Spirit. The wind of God.”

Not long ago, the world watched as three gray whales, ice bound off Point Barrow, Alaska, floated battered and bloody, gasping for breath at a hole in the ice. Their only hope: somehow to be transported five miles past the ice pack to open sea.

Rescuers began cutting a string of breathing holes about twenty yards apart in the six-inch-thick ice. For eight days they coaxed the whales from one hole to the next, mile after mile. Along the way, one of the trio vanished and was presumed dead. But finally, with the help of Russian icebreakers, the whales Putu and Siku swam to freedom.

In a way, we need the Holy Spirit from time to time. Battered and bruised in a world frozen over with greed, selfishness, and hatred, we rise for air in God’s kingdom to be loved, empowered and encouraged, until that day when the Lord forever shatters the ice cap. We need to be “RE-TIRED” again and again.

Do you believe the power of the Holy Spirit? I believe it. Don't you need to experience the power of the Holy Spirit? Not just once, nor twice, nor three times, we need it again and again. We need retreat from time to time. We need to be "RE-TIRED," from time to time again. When was the last time you were RE-TIRED with the Holy Spirit? How is your soul today? Do you need to be re-charged, and re-freshed? Pray for the Holy Spirit.

Today is Pentecost Sunday. I would like to invite you to examine your spirituality for awhile together: focusing on Spirituality of the Fourth Dimension (Mind, Faith, Dreams/Vision and Language). We will focus on the Mind through this month, and we will learn about the Holy Spirit.

Are you RE-TIRED? Jesus says, "When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning." Amen.